



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Joanne Sturges, Acting Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held March 14, 2006, the Board took the following action:

2

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“For the past three years, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has redirected resources to decrease the average time children are in the foster care system. According to DCFS, this decrease, in addition to other budgeted under expenditures, has resulted in a projected net County cost savings in this year’s budget. In light of this savings, DCFS plans to redirect a portion of the current year cost savings to enhance the success of its three permanency-focused programs: Concurrent Planning Redesign, the Permanency Partners Program, and Team Decision Making. Furthermore, DCFS had planned, as part of its proposed Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget, to recommend more funding to its programs directed to improve child safety.

“However, in light of the tragic deaths of Sarah C. and other children under the supervision of DCFS, as well as the dangerous conditions of children living with their families on Skid Row, the Department Children and Family Services’ child safety programs must be immediately improved. These child safety programs will serve vital needs in DCFS to protect children. Therefore, a portion of current year cost savings should be redirected to child safety programs involving oversight over relative caregivers, improving emergency response and improving DCFS’ performance.

(Continued on Page 2)

## 2 (Continued)

“Placing children in the homes of their relatives when they cannot live with their parents is an important focus of DCFS. The Department Children and Family Services places approximately 30% of the 38,546 children receiving child welfare services in the homes of relatives. Unlike foster family agencies and group homes, however, relative homes undergo only very limited oversight. To address this issue, DCFS should blend and enhance existing DCFS units to create a unit to provide independent oversight over relative caregivers. This unit should also ensure that relative caregivers receive funding for children placed in their care in a timely manner and ensure that DCFS receives the Federal reimbursement it is forfeiting now due to lack of timely review of relative homes.

“Further, DCFS should reduce emergency response caseloads, in keeping with the National standard, and ensure that performance issues are addressed in a timely manner.”

Dr. David Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services responded to questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services was instructed to:

1. Report back to the Board when submitting its upcoming Board Adjustment Letter to redirect any remaining cost savings, beyond that which the Department plans to redirect to permanency programs, to immediately enhance programs directly related to improved child safety; and
2. Provide specific performance measures to demonstrate that outcomes are being met in these child-safety programs.

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